

## **Agenda Item: Revise Composite Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan to Include Bike and Ped Connectivity Near Weddington/I-485 Interchange Area**

**DATE:** March 8, 2016  
**FROM:** Kathi Ingrish

### **Background/Issue:**

- The Matthews Composite Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, adopted in 2015, lists desired public improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- The adopted Plan provides improvements which can close gaps between existing and/or proposed bike or ped improvements.
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities may include sidewalks, multi-use paths (can be used by bikes and pedestrians), local residential streets marked as "Neighborhood Signed Routes", and on-street bicycle lanes.
- One gap was overlooked when the Plan was adopted last year – when the Weddington Road/I-485 interchange is built, bike and ped access can be provided through the Thornblade neighborhood over to Weddington Road.
  - Sidewalk and bike lanes exist along the portion of Weddington Road from Winterbrook neighborhood back toward downtown.
  - Sidewalk and bike lanes are proposed for the section of Weddington Road across I-485 past McKee Road when that stretch is widened.
  - All streets within Thornblade have sidewalk on both sides.
  - Part of Thornblade is shown in the Composite Plan as getting "Neighborhood Signed Routes" to demonstrate cars must share the internal subdivision streets with bicycles.
- Increasing the Neighborhood Signed Route designation within Thornblade on Bumblebee Dr and Wilrose Pl will extend the formal bicycle connectivity.
- Adding a multi-use path between Thornblade subdivision – at the southeastern cul-de-sac of Wilrose Place – and Weddington Road through the Leighton property (adjacent to the planned interchange) will provide the missing connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists.

### **Proposal/Solution:**

- The location of a multi-use path through the Leighton site is conceptual at this time.
- By adding this to the Comprehensive Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan now, NCDOT will accommodate the improvements when they complete their design work for the new interchange.
- This idea was brought to the Matthews Transportation Advisory Board on January 21, 2016 for their initial response. Draft minutes from that meeting state "All TAC members agreed this would be a good addition for the town."
- Any additions and amendments to the Composite Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, such as this, must be reviewed and adopted by the Board of Commissioners the same as the overall document was.

### **Financial Impact:**

None

### **Related Town Goal(s) and/or Strategies:**

Quality of Life

Economic Development/Land Use Planning

### **Recommended Motion/Action:**

Hold the public hearing on the proposed amendment to include this multi-use path and extension of Neighborhood Signed Route as shown on the attached drawing.

Comp b&p Leighton 3-8-16



# Proposed Amendment to Composite Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Feb 2016



existing or proposed pedestrian improvements in Composite B+P Plan



existing or proposed bicycle improvements in Composite B+P Plan



amend B+P Plan to add "Neighborhood Signed Route"



amend B+P Plan to add a Multi-Use Path